

The \$2 bill is a safe bet

By Roger Boye

THE CHANCES are "about 99 per cent" that the government will produce a \$2 bill in time for the United States Bicentennial, said James A. Conlon, director of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

Production of a \$2 bill has been considered likely for the last several months, and Conlon has been one of its leading advocates.

Speaking at a recent coin convention, Conlon said the note likely would feature the likeness of Thomas Jefferson on the obverse and an engraving of the Trumbull painting illustrating the signing of the Declaration of Independence on the reverse. It probably would be issued next July 4, with at least 400 million notes to be printed annually.

With such high production [only six million \$2 bills were produced annually when the issue was discontinued in 1966], Conlon believes the bills should circulate widely and be used in daily business transactions.

A DRAWING by a 15-year-old Peoria high school student is so good that it is being en-

graved into bronze, silver, and even gold.

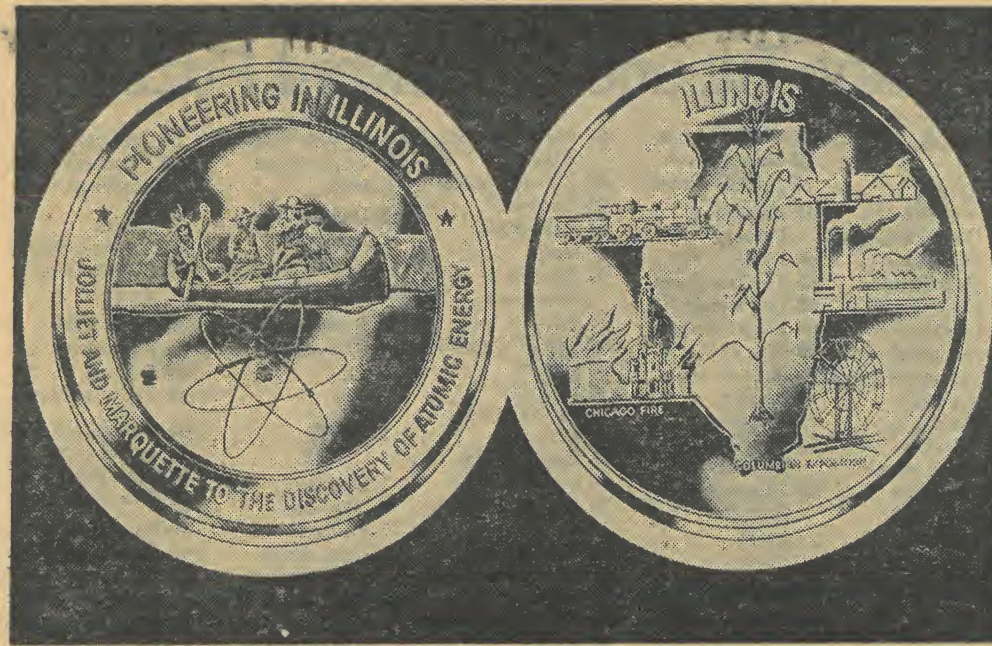
The drawing of "Pioneering in Illinois," by Zackary Kaliher, was selected as winner of a statewide contest to design the 1976 Illinois Bicentennial medal. It shows explorers Joliet and Marquette and a symbol denoting the discovery of atomic energy in Illinois.

Kaliher said he did the drawing last May after getting the idea while watching a movie on television showing canoes in the wilderness. He is a sophomore at Bergan High School in Peoria.

The Illinois Bicentennial Commission also selected a drawing by Darcy Krueger, 18, of Hawthorne Woods for the 1975 Illinois Bicentennial medal. Her drawing is a montage of events in Illinois history.

She is a graduate of Carmel High School for Girls in Mundelein and is currently a freshman at Kendall School of Design in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Both students received \$1,500 for their drawings from the Lincoln Mint in Chicago, which is producing the medals. Approximately 800 entries were received in the contest for the 1975 and 1976 medals.



Illinois Bicentennial medal designs for 1976 (left) and 1975.

The 1975 or 1976 medals can be purchased by writing to Illinois Bicentennial Medallion, P. O. Box 6369, Chicago, Ill. 60607. The 1½-inch bronze medals are \$4 each, and the 1½-inch silver medals are \$16 each. A 1½-inch gold medal containing 480 grains of gold sells for

\$300, and a one-inch gold medal with 100 grains of gold costs \$75.

The 1976 medal is the fourth and last medal in the Illinois Bicentennial series. Part of the proceeds from the sale of the medals goes to the Illinois Bicentennial Commission.